

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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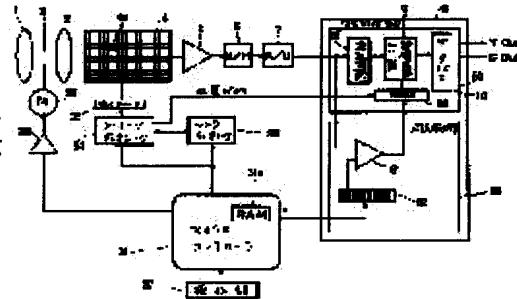
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(54) IMAGE PICKUP DEVICE

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To correct automatically a defect of a CCD by detecting a defect of the CCD for each picture element and correcting picture element data corresponding to the result of detection.

CONSTITUTION: An iris 3 is closed just after a power supply is turned on. Each of picture element data of a CCD 4 is read in this state and compared with a prescribed reference value at a comparator circuit 61. When picture element data to be read have a defect, the level is larger than a reference level set by a micro controller 31. In this case, a defect correction circuit 9 interpolates picture element data with one preceding picture element data and outputs the result.



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1]An imaging device comprising:

An imaging means which outputs image data of a photographic subject for every pixel.
A detection means to detect a defect for every pixel of said imaging means from an output of said imaging means.
A compensation means which amends image data outputted from said imaging means corresponding to a detection result of said detection means.

[Claim 2]The imaging device according to claim 1 with which it has further a control means operated when one [a power supply], and said detection means is characterized by detecting a defect for every pixel of said imaging means whenever one [said control means / said power supply].

[Claim 3]The imaging device according to claim 1 or 2 when it has further a control means which controls light volume of light which enters into said imaging means and said detection means detects a defect for every pixel of said imaging means, wherein said control means does not enter light in said imaging means substantially.

[Claim 4]When said imaging means is further equipped with a shutter means which controls time for light to enter and said detection means detects a defect for every pixel of said imaging means, said shutter means, The imaging device according to claim 1, 2, or 3 restricting time when light enters into said imaging means to predetermined time.

[Translation done.]

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]**[0001]**

[Industrial Application] This invention is used for a portable video camera etc., for example, and relates to a suitable imaging device.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] CCD is used for the video camera as the image sensor these days. This CCD is considered as matrix composition, for example, 400,000 pixels are arranged.

[0003] If at least one of each of the pixel of this has a defect, the output corresponding to that pixel will serve as an unusual value. Then, before shipping a video camera from a plant, the defect of CCD is inspected, and he is trying to amend this.

[0004]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, since the conventional video camera was what amends a defect before factory shipments in this way, when a defect occurred after factory shipments, it was not able to amend this.

[0005] It is made in view of such a situation, and enables it to amend a defect after factory shipments, and this invention is **.

[0006]

[Means for Solving the Problem] This invention is characterized by an imaging device comprising the following.

CCD4 as an imaging means which outputs image data of a photographic subject for every pixel.

The microcontroller 31 as a detection means to detect a defect for every pixel of CCD4 from an output of CCD4.

The error correction circuit 9 as a compensation means which amends image data outputted from CCD4 corresponding to a detection result of the microcontroller 31.

[0007]This imaging device can detect a defect for every pixel of CCD4, whenever one [it has further the final controlling element 37 as a control means operated when one / a power supply / and / the final controlling element 37 / a power supply]. When the iris 3 as a control means which controls light volume which enters into CCD4 is formed further and the microcontroller 31 detects a defect for every pixel of CCD4, light can be prevented from entering into CCD4 substantially by the iris 3. When the electronic shutter 35 as a shutter means which controls time for light to enter into CCD4 is formed and the microcontroller 31 detects a defect for every pixel of CCD4, Time when light enters into CCD4 by the electronic shutter 35 can be restricted to predetermined time.

[0008]

[Function]In the imaging device of the above-mentioned composition, when the microcontroller 31 detects the defect which is each pixel of CCD4, the output of CCD4 is amended by the error correction circuit 9. Therefore, a user becomes possible [using a device], without almost caring about this defect substantially.

[0009]

[Example]Drawing 1 is a block diagram showing the composition of one example of the video camera adapting the imaging device of this invention. It is made as [enter / the light from a photographic subject / into CCD4 / via the lenses 1 and 2]. The iris 3 is arranged among the lenses 1 and 2, and it is made as [control / the light volume of the light which enters into CCD4]. The pixel [a large number (for example, 400,000 pieces)] is arranged on the matrix, and CCD4 is made as [output / for every pixel / the image data of a photographic subject]. The electronic shutter 35 is made as [control / the time (exposure time) when light enters into this CCD4].

[0010]After sample hold of the output of CCD4 is inputted and carried out to the sample hold circuit 6 via the amplifier 5 and also an A/D conversion is carried out by A/D converter 7, it is made as [supply / the digital disposal circuit 8 and the zone detector circuit 21].

[0011]The digital disposal circuit 8 is made as [output / amend this and / it / to the circuit which is not illustrated / as luminosity (Y) data and color difference (C) data], if the image data which has the error correction circuit 9 and was inputted from A/D converter 7 has a defect. The output of the error correction circuit 9 is made as [supply / via the data bus 10 and the shift register 11 as an interface / the microcontroller 31 which consists of microprocessors etc.].

[0012]The inside of the image data into which the zone detector circuit 21 was inputted from A/D converter 7 on the other hand, The image data of selection and a ** zone is added in the adding machine (integration circuit) 23 by the selection circuitry 22, and it is made as [output / the data added (integration) / to the microcontroller 31 / via the shift register 24]. It is made as [choose / the zone added in the adding machine 23 corresponding to the instructions inputted

via the shift register 25 / from the microcontroller 31 / in the selection circuitry 22].

[0013]The final controlling element 37 is constituted by a switch, button, etc., and when switching on a power supply or inputting predetermined instructions, it is operated. The microcontroller 31 is made as [control / corresponding to this operation / each part]. For example, when ordered in adjustment of the iris 3, the motor 33 drives via the amplifier 32 and the iris 3 is adjusted to a predetermined diaphragm value. When ordered [using the electronic shutter 35 and], the electronic shutter 35 drives via the timing generator 34, and it is made as [control / exposure time].

[0014]This timing generator 34 has memorized the address for every pixel of CCD4, and when the defect of a predetermined pixel is detected by the microcontroller 31, it is made as [output / to the error correction circuit 9 / an error correction tab-control-specification pulse]. While the sync generator 36 generates various sink signals and outputting to the timing generator 34, The sampling tab-control-specification pulse which samples the data of a predetermined pixel corresponding to the instructions from the microcontroller 31 is outputted to the data bus 10, and it is made as [make / the microcontroller 31 / supply the picture element data specified by this designation pulse via shift REJITA 11].

[0015]Next, the operation is explained with reference to the flow chart of drawing 2 and drawing 3. When the one [a power supply] by operating the predetermined switch of the final controlling element 37 that the video camera shown in drawing 1 should be used, the microcontroller 31 starts the processing shown in drawing 2. The microcontroller 31 makes the iris 3 first closed in Step S1. Thereby, light will be in the state where it does not enter at all CCD4. Next, it progresses to Step S2 and processing of the subroutine of a defective search is performed. The details of processing of the subroutine of this defective search are shown in drawing 3.

[0016]That is, the microcontroller 31 sets the zone counter to build in to a predetermined initial value (for example, 1) first. Next, it progresses to Step S12 and it is judged whether the value of the counter set at Step S11 has reached the last value of the zone (were all the zones of the screens of one sheet judged or not?). When the judgment of all the zones is completed, a return is carried out to Step S2. When no detection processing of zones is completed yet, it progresses to Step S13, and the picture element data in the zone is added in the adding machine 23 (integration).

[0017]Namely, although the data for one screen is serially inputted into the adding machine 23 one by one from A/D converter 7, Corresponding to the instructions which the microcontroller 31 supplies via the shift register 25, the selection circuitry 22 chooses a zone predetermined [of this one screen], and outputs only the picture element data in that zone to the adding machine 23. In the example of drawing 1, one screen is classified into nine zones, and the picture element data of one of these nine zones will be supplied and added to the adding

machine 23.

[0018]And it is judged whether a defect exists in the pixel of the zone from the picture element data which he followed to Step S14 and with which it integrated in Step S13 from Step S13.

That is, the microcontroller 31 receives supply of the aggregate value (integral value) of the predetermined block which the adding machine 23 added via the shift register 24, and compares this aggregate value with the predetermined reference value set up beforehand.

[0019]Since the iris 3 is changed into the state where it closed thoroughly, now as mentioned above, the level of the image data which CCD4 outputs will become near 0 substantially. However, if this CCD4 has a defect, that output level will not be set to 0. As a result, when there is no defect into the zone, an aggregate value turns into a value smaller than the reference value set up beforehand, but when there is a defect, it becomes larger than a reference value. The microcontroller 31 performs this judgment.

[0020]And when judged with a defect not existing, it progresses to Step S15, and only 1 *****'s a zone counter, it returns to Step S11, and processing after it is repeated. That is, when a defect does not exist in the zone shown by the number 1, for example in drawing 1, processing of the zone shown by the number 2 is used henceforth. And when a defect does not exist in the zone shown by the number 2, processing of the zone shown by the number 3 is used henceforth.

[0021]In Step S14, when judged with the target zone having a defect now, it progresses to Step S16, and H counter is set to a predetermined value. Furthermore it progresses to Step S17, and V counter is set to a predetermined value. And in Step S18, processing which extracts the picture element data specified by H counter set up at Steps S16 and S17 and V counter is performed. Thereby, the predetermined data currently held at the data bus 10 of the digital disposal circuit 8 is supplied to the microcontroller 31 via the shift register 11.

[0022]It judges with the microcontroller 31 having a defect as compared with the predetermined reference value beforehand set up in the level of this predetermined pixel, when that level is larger than a reference value, and when small, it judges with there being no defect. When there is no defect, it progresses to Step S20, and only one H counter is *****'ed. And it progresses to Step S21 and only 1 *****'s V counter. And it progresses to Step S16 again, and processing after it is repeated. As a result, it will be judged whether it is the no which has a defect in the following pixel.

[0023]Namely, in the case where it judges with the microcontroller 31 having a defect in the zone with which it integrated in the adding machine 23, A sampling tab-control-specification pulse is supplied to the data bus 10 via the sync generator 36, and the operation which reads one picture element data of the target zone at a time via the shift register 11 is repeated. In the digital disposal circuit 8, each picture element data is serially inputted from A/D converter 7. Therefore, the digital disposal circuit 8 can supply only one picture element data to the

microcontroller 31 in the 1 field. Then, the picture element data contained in the zone will be read over the time of the field number for the number of the pixel in each zone, and the existence of the defect will be judged.

[0024]In this example, the number of the picture element data which can be read from the digital disposal circuit 8 in this way will be only one piece about the 1 field. Then, he is trying to judge the position for every pixel only about the zone judged as there being a defect by classifying one screen into two or more zones, as mentioned above, and judging whether there is any defect beforehand for every zone. By doing in this way, it is begun to read each picture element data one by one, without classifying one screen into a zone, and quick processing is attained compared with the case where the existence of a defect is judged.

[0025]In Step S19, when judged with one pixel read now having a defect, it returns to Step S2. And when this defect is detected, it progresses to Step S3 further, and processing of error correction is performed. That is, while memorizing the pixel judged as the microcontroller 31 having a defect to RAM31a to build in, the timing generator 34 is controlled and the error correction tab-control-specification pulse which specifies the pixel judged as there being a defect is made to supply to the error correction circuit 9. The error correction circuit 9 complements and outputs the picture element data of the position specified by that designation pulse with the picture element data of one piece ago, when this designation pulse is inputted.

[0026]Next, it progresses to S4 from Step S3, and checking operation is performed. That is, the microcontroller 31 makes the picture element data of the zone where the defect was detected by the data bus 10 now via the sync generator 36 choose again. And it is judged whether as compared with a reference value, there is any defect again about the value. When still judged with there being a defect, it progresses to Step S5, and a timer check is performed. And when the time set up beforehand has not passed yet after one [progressing to Step S6 and / a power supply], it progresses to Step S2 and processing after it is repeated. That is, repeat execution of the compensation process of a defect is carried out until the time set up beforehand passes, after one [a power supply].

[0027]As a result of checking in step S4, when [which was judged] the defect is amended, and when it is judged with the time set up beforehand having passed in Step S6, progress to the following step S7, the iris 3 is made to open wide, and compensation process operation is terminated.

[0028]Although the image data of one screen (1 field) is divided above in two or more zones and the existence of the defect was judged for every zone, For example, all the picture element data of the whole 1 screen is added (integration), and still finer detection processing can be performed corresponding to the comparison result, comparing this with a predetermined reference value. If it does in this way, when a defect does not exist, processing can be completed promptly.

[0029]Drawing 4 shows the composition of the 2nd example of this invention. The digital disposal circuit 8 is constituted by the signal processing part 50 and the defect detector 60 in this example. When a defect detection signal is inputted as the delay circuit 51 which the signal processing part 50 does the specified time lag of the data inputted from A/D converter 7 in addition to error correction circuit 9 and data bus 10, and is supplied to the error correction circuit 9 from the defect detector 60, It has RAM52 which memorizes position data when supplied from the timing generator 34. The defect detector 60 has the comparator 61 which compares the data supplied from A/D converter 7 with the reference value supplied via the shift register 62 from the microcontroller 31.

[0030]Other composition is the same as that of the case in the example of drawing 1.

[0031]Next, the operation is explained with reference to the flow chart of drawing 5. One of a power supply will also start this processing. The microcontroller 31 controls the motor 33 via the amplifier 32, and makes the iris 3 first closed in Step S31. Next, it progresses to Step S32 and a predetermined reference value is made to set to one input of the comparison circuit 61 via the shift register 62. Furthermore it progresses to Step S33, and automatic error correction mode is made to set up. That is, when a defect has a pixel which does not have a defect when error correction processing is performed in the mode in which the usual picture is outputted, there is a possibility that an erroneous decision may be carried out. Then, the special mode for detecting a defect is set up.

[0032]Next, progress to Step S34, and the speed of the electronic shutter 35 is made to set to predetermined time (comparatively high-speed time), and the compensation process of real time is performed. That is, the microcontroller 31 controls the electronic shutter 35 via the timing generator 34, and makes the electronic shutter 35 perform comparatively high-speed operation (operation which makes exposure time brief). It was checked as a result of the experiment that it becomes easy to detect a defect from the output of CCD4 to have controlled the electronic shutter 35 to become comparatively short exposure time.

[0033]On the other hand, in Step S34, error correction operation is further performed in real time. That is, the data which A/D converter 7 outputs is compared with the reference value (this reference value is set up in Step S32) set up via the shift register 62 in the comparison circuit 61.

[0034]As mentioned above, as for the data of the pixel with a defect, the level has become larger than a reference value. When the detecting signal which shows that a defect exists from the comparison circuit 61 is inputted, RAM52 judges the position corresponding to it from the position data which the timing generator 34 outputs, and memorizes the position data. After the delay circuit 51 is delayed in the data in which only processing time required for detection of a defect was outputted from A/D converter 7, it is outputted to the error correction circuit 9. When the timing signal which should amend from RAM52 is supplied, the error correction circuit 9

keeps the picture element data inputted from the delay circuit 51 with the picture element data in front of one, and outputs it to the data bus 10.

[0035]Thus, in this example, since the picture element data read from CCD4 is made as [amend / for every pixel, / if there is a defect in real time], when the judgment about all the picture element data of CCD4 is performed once, a compensation process will be completed. That is, in this example, a compensation process will be completed by the reading time of the 1 field.

[0036]When such a compensation process is completed, next it progresses to Step S35, the iris 3 is opened wide, and compensation process operation is ended.

[0037]After a compensation process is performed as mentioned above, it will be switched to the usual mode and the usual image data will be outputted. As a result, since the picture element data of the pixel 4a which has a defect, for example is replaced and outputted to picture element data without a defect, a defect is prevented from being recognized by the user.

[0038]In this example, although it was made to make RAM52 memorize a corrected position, of course, it may be made to make RAM31a of the microcontroller 31 memorize.

[0039]In the above two examples, although it was made to perform a compensation process immediately after one [a power supply], when this switch is operated by forming the switch for exclusive use operated when starting a compensation process to the final controlling element 37, it is also possible for it to be made to perform a compensation process. However, since operation in which it was made to make it more nearly special [to perform a compensation process automatically] becomes unnecessary when one [a power supply], operativity becomes good.

[0040]

[Effect of the Invention]Since the defect for every pixel of an imaging means is detected and picture element data was amended corresponding to the detection result according to the imaging device of this invention like the above, the compensation process at the time of factory shipments becomes unnecessary.

[Translation done.]

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1]It is a block diagram showing the composition of one example of the video camera adapting the imaging device of this invention.

[Drawing 2]It is a flow chart explaining operation of the example of drawing 1.

[Drawing 3]It is a flow chart which shows detailed processing of Step S2 of drawing 2.

[Drawing 4]It is a block diagram showing the composition of the 2nd example of the video camera adapting the imaging device of this invention.

[Drawing 5]It is a flow chart explaining operation of the example of drawing 4.

[Description of Notations]

3 Iris

4 CCD

8 Digital disposal circuit

9 Error correction circuit

10 Data bus

11 Shift register

21 Zone detector circuit

22 Selection circuitry

23 Adding machine

31 Microcontroller

34 Timing generator

35 Electronic shutter

37 Final controlling element

50 Signal processing part

60 Defect detector

61 Comparison circuit

62 Shift register

[Translation done.]

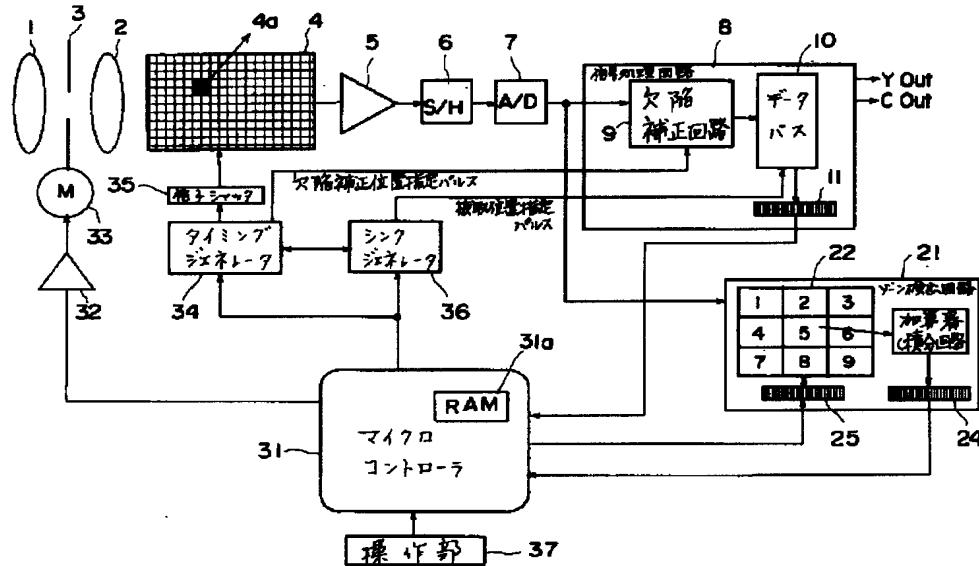
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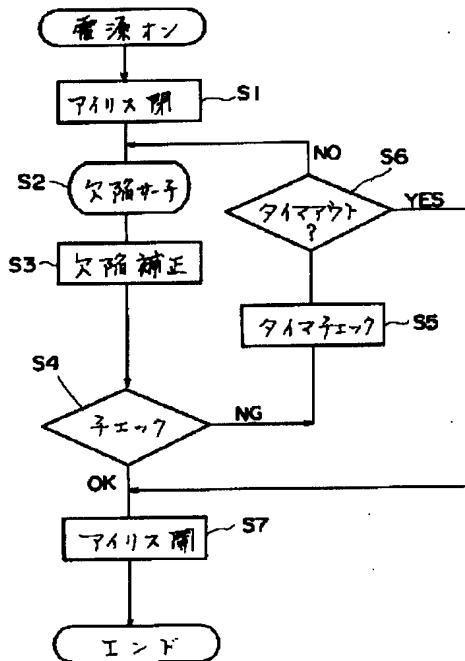
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DRAWINGS

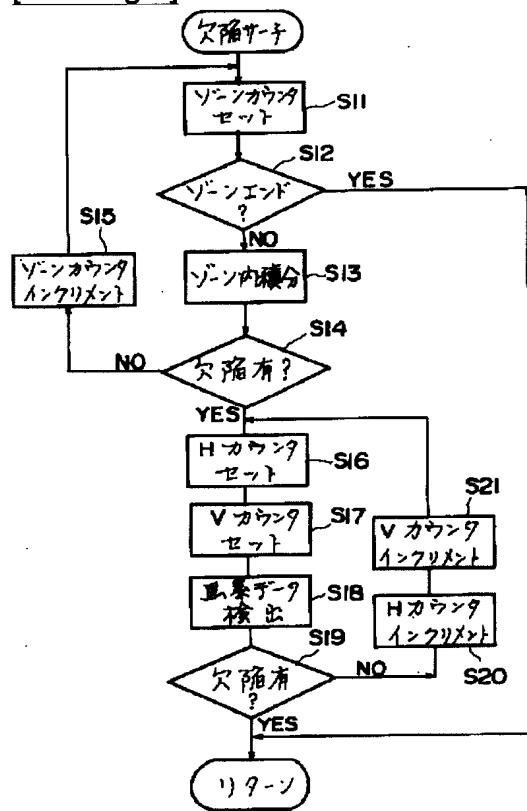
[Drawing 1]



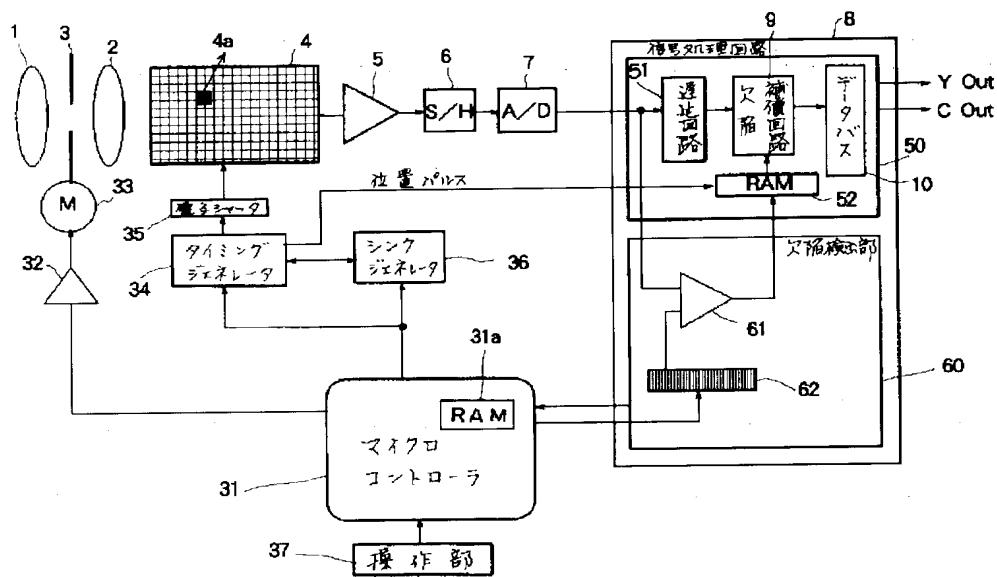
[Drawing 2]



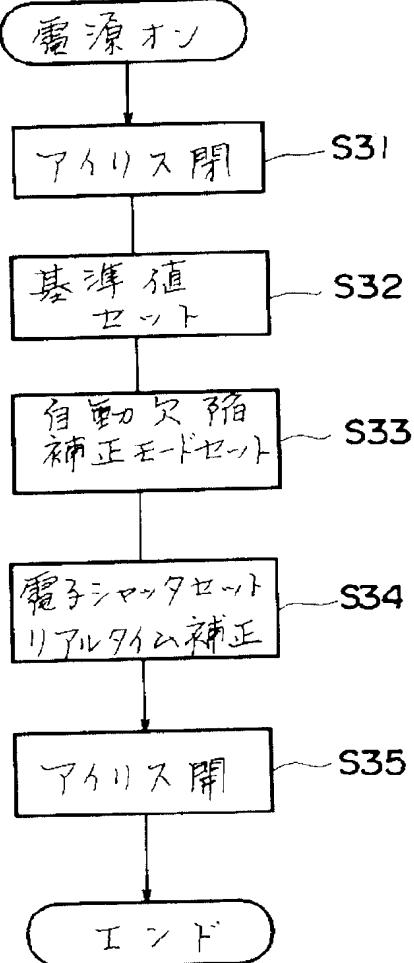
[Drawing 3]



[Drawing 4]



[Drawing 5]



[Translation done.]

〔0012〕一方、ソーン検出回路2 1はA/D変換器
より人力された画像データのうち、選択回路2 2で選
択されたソーンの画像データを、加算器2 3において
加算し、その加算（積分）したデータをシフト
レジスタ2 4を介してマイクロコントローラ3 1に出力
するようになされている。また、マイクロコントローラ
3 1よりシフトレジスタ2 5を介して選択するソーンを選択回
路2 2において選択するようになされている。
〔0013〕一方、加算器2 3において加算するソーンを
選択する場合、ソーン検出回路2 1はA/D変換器2 3に
データを加算器2 3において加算（積分）する。
〔0017〕即ち、A/D変換器7から加算器2 3に
画面部分のデータがシリアルに順次入力される3 1がシフ
トレジスタ回路2 2はマイクロコントローラ3 1がシフ
トレジスタ2 5を介して供給する旨に応して、この
画面部分の所定のソーン内を供給を選択し、そのソーン内の画
面データのみを加算器2 3に取出す。図1の実施例に
いては、1画面が9個のソーンに区分されており、こ
れらのソーンの内の1つのソーンの画素データが加算

て、再びステップS1.6に進み、それ以降の処理を繰り返す。その結果、次の要素に欠陥があるかが判定されることがあることになる。

[0.02.3] 即ち、マイクロコントローラ3.1は加算器2.3において、選択したゾーンに欠陥があると判定した場合においては、シンクシェネレータ3.6を介してデータバス1.0に抜取データを供給し、対象とするゾーンの画素データを1個ずつフレッシュタスク1.1を介して各出力端子へ送信する。信号処理回路においては、A/D変換器7より各画素データがシリアルに入力され、A/D変換器7より各画素データがシリアルに入力され、

【0027】ステップS4においてチェックした結果、欠陥が補正された場合、およびSステップS6において、予め設定した時間が経過したと判定された場合、次のステップS7に進み、アリス3を開放させ、補強処理動作終了させる。

【0028】以上においては、1画面(1フレーム)の画像データを複数のシーンに分割し、各シーン毎に欠陥の有無を判定するようにしてが、例えば1画面全体制の画像データを全て加算(積分)し、これを所定の基準値と比較して、その比較結果に対応して更に細かい検

【0013】操作部3.7はスイッチ、鍵等により構成され、電源を投入したり、所属の指令を入力すると操作される。マイクロコントローラ3.1は、この操作に対応して各部を制御するようになります。例えば、アイリス3の調整が指令され、アイリス3が所持の校り盤に調整される。また、電子シャッタ3.5を運用することが指令された場合においては、タイミングシェレータ3.4を介して電子シャッタ3.5が駆動され、露出時間が制御されるようになります。

【0014】ステップS1.3からステップS10へと進みます。ステップS1.3においては、撮影した画素データからそのソーンの画素に欠陥が存在するか否かを判定する。即ち、マイクロコントローラ3.1は、シフトレジスター2.4を介して加算器2.3が測算した所定のブロック加算値(積分値)の供給を受け、この加算値を予め読み取られた所定の基準値と比較する。

【0015】上記したように、いまアイリス3を完全に閉じた状態にしているため、CCDが露出する面積

される。従って、信号処理回路8は1フレームごとに、1個の画素データしかマイクロコンピュータ3にいて、1個の画素データを読み出すことができる画素データの数は、信号処理回路8について1個のみとなる。そこで、上述したように1画面を複数のゾーンに区分し、各ゾーン毎に個別のフレーム数の時間をかけて、その矢端の有無を判定するられる画素データを読み出し、そのことになる。

[0014]また、このタイミングチャレステムは、CCD4の各画素毎のアドレスを記録しており、所定の画像の欠陥がマイクロコントローラ31により検出された場合において、欠陥補正位置指定バスを欠陥補正回路9に送出するようになされている。シンクジェネレータ36は種々のシンク信号を生成し、タイミングジェネレータ34に出力するとともに、マイクロコントローラ31からの指令に対応して所定の画素のデータを抜き取る、抜取位置指定バスをデータバス10に出力し、この指定バスにより指定した画素データをシリアルデータバス11に供給させる11を介して、マイクロコントローラ31に供給されるようになされている。

[0015]次に、図2及び図3のフローチャートを参照して、その動作について説明する。図1に示すビデオカメラを操作すべく操作部31の所定のスイッチを操作することにより電源がオンされたとき、マイクロコントローラ31は図2を示す処理を開始する。マイクロコン

から、CCCD4に欠陥があるとその出力レベルがならない。その結果、そのゾーン内に欠陥が無いか判定されない。そこで、計算値は予め設定した閾値より合においては、基準値より種となるが、欠陥がある場合においては基準値よりも大きくなる。マイクロコントローラ31はこの判定を行なう。

[0020]そして、欠陥が存在しないと判定された場合においては、ステップS15に進み、ゾーンカットを例えれば1だけインクリメントしてステップS11を繰り返す。即ち、操作部31は図1より、それを以降の処理を繰り返す。

番号1で示すゾーンの処理が存在しない場合においては、番号2で示すゾーンの処理に移行する。そして番号3で示すゾーンの処理に移行する。

[0021]ステップS14において、いま対象とするゾーンに欠陥があると判定された場合においては、ステップS16に進み、Hカウントを所定の値にセット

データで補完して出力する。
【0026】1次にステップS3からS4に進み、チェック動作が行われる。即ち、マイクロプロローラ31クジケンが行なわれる。データを再び選択されると、シングルエレベータ36を介してデータを再び選択され、又欠陥が検出されたソーンの画面素数データを比較し、欠陥があるか否かを判定する。また、欠陥があると判定された場合はステップS5に進み、マイフチエラクを行なう。そして、ステップS6に進み、電源をオシした後も設定した時間がまだ経過していない場合においては

たかがを押す。至るソーンのモードをS₁にしておいては、ステップS₂にリターンする。金のソーンの検出処理がまだ終わっていない場合においては、ソーンの内だけねじる画面が進み、Vカウントを1だけインクリメントする。

は、ステップごとに進み、で4小時以上かかる。
即ち、電源をオンした後、予め設定した時間が経過するまで、欠陥の補正処理が繰り返し実行される。

ルタイムで欠陥補正動作が実行される。即ち、A/D変換器7が出力するデータが比較回路6.1において、シフトレジスタ6.2を介して設定した基準値（この基準値はステップS3.2において設定されている）と比較される。

[003.4] 上述のように、欠陥がある画素のデータは、そのレベルが基準値よりも大きくなっている。RAM5.2は、比較回路6.1より欠陥が存在することを示す検出信号が入力されたとき、それに対応する位置をタイミングシェキレータ3.4が出力する位置データから判定し、その位置データを記憶する。選延回路5.1は欠陥の検出に必要な処理時間だけA/D変換器7より出力されたデータを選延した後、欠陥補正回路9.0に出力する。欠陥補正回路9.0はRAM5.2より補正を行るべきタイミング信号が供給されたとき、選延回路5.1より入力された画素データを1つ前の画素データで保管し、データバス1.0に送出する。

[003.5] このように、この実施例においては、CCD4.0より読み出された画素データが1画素毎に、リアルタイムで欠陥があれば補正されるようになされているため、CCD4の全画素データについての判定が1回行われたとき補正処理が完了することになる。即ち、この実施例においては1フレームの読み出し時間で補正処理が完了することになる。

[003.6] このような補正処理が完了したとき、次にステップS3.5に進みアリス3.3が開放され、補正処理動作が終了される。

[003.7] 以上のようにして補正処理が行われた後、通常のモードに切り換られ、通常の画素データが输出されるところとなる。その結果、例えば欠陥のある画素4.8の画素データは欠陥のない画素データに置き換えられて输出されるため、使用者に欠陥が認識されるようになことが防止される。

[003.8] この実施例においては、RAM5.2に補正位置を記憶させるようにして、マイクロコントローラ3.1のRAM3.1に記憶させるようにしてもらよいこととは勿論である。

[003.9] また、以上の2つの実施例においては、電源をオンした直後に補正処理を実行するようにしたが、操作部3.7に補正処理を開始するとき操作される専用の

スイッチを設けるなどして、このスイッチが操作されたとき補正処理を実行するようになることも可能である。但し、電源がオフされたとき自動的に補正処理を実行せざるようになした方が特別の操作が不要となるため、操作性が良好となる。

[004.0] 「発明の効果」以上のごく本発明の撮像装置によれば、撮像手段の各画素毎の欠陥を検出し、その検出結果に対応して画素データを補正するようにして、工場出荷時ににおける補正処理が不要となる。

【図1】本発明の撮像装置を応用したビデオカメラの一実施例の構成を示すブロック図である。

【図2】図1の実施例の動作を説明するフローチャートである。

【図3】図2のステップS2の詳細な処理を示すフローチャートである。

【図4】本発明の撮像装置を応用したビデオカメラの第2の実施例の構成を示すブロック図である。

【図5】図4の実施例の動作を説明するフローチャートである。

【符号の説明】

3 アリス

4 CCD

8 信号処理回路

9 欠陥補正回路

10 テータバス

11 シフトレジスター

21 ソニッケット

22 選延回路

30 加算器

31 マイクロコントローラ

34 タイミングジェネレータ

35 電子シャッタ

37 操作部

50 信号処理部

60 欠陥検出部

61 比較回路

62 シフトレジスター

SI1 ソニッケット

SI2 ソニッケット

SI3 ソニッケット

SI4 ソニッケット

SI5 ソニッケット

SI6 ソニッケット

SI7 ソニッケット

SI8 ソニッケット

SI9 ソニッケット

SI10 ソニッケット

SI11 ソニッケット

SI12 ソニッケット

SI13 ソニッケット

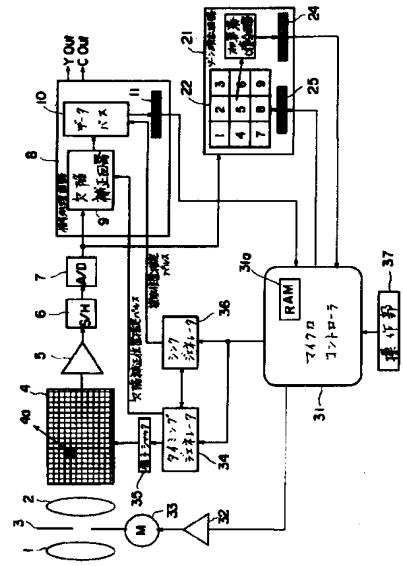
SI14 ソニッケット

SI15 ソニッケット

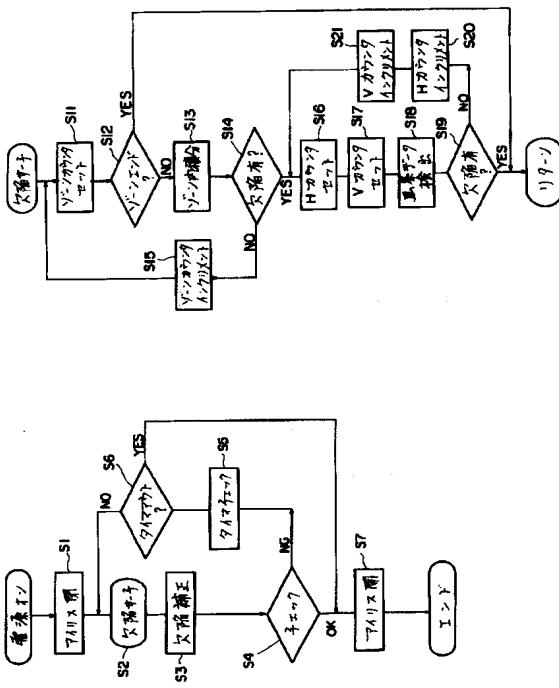
SI16 ソニッケット

SI17 ソニッケット

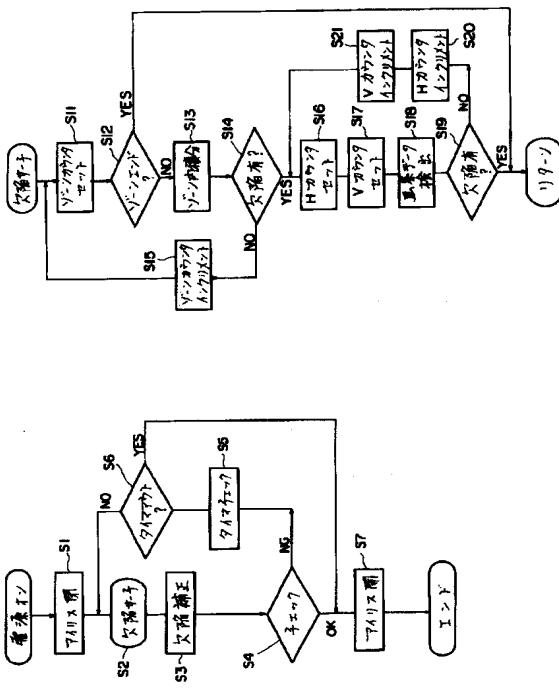
【図1】



【図2】

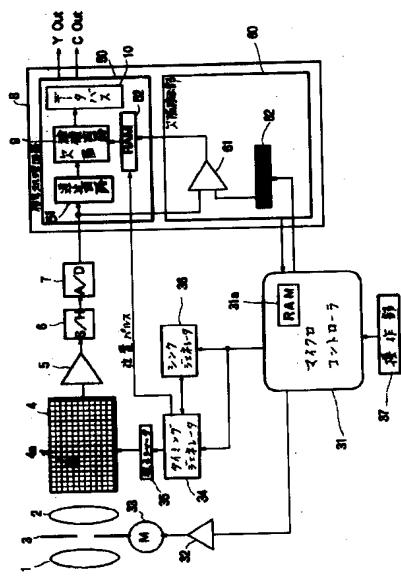


【図3】



(7)

[図4]



[図5]

